

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

G. Joseph Buck,

Complainant,

vs.

Frontier California, Inc., (U1002C) f/k/a
Verizon California, Inc.,

Defendant (s).

Case 18-09-004

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until March 13, 2020.

1. Background

Pub. Util. Code § 1701.2(i) provides that adjudicatory cases, such as this one, shall be resolved within 12 months of initiation unless the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) makes findings as to why that deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The original 12-month statutory deadline for this proceeding is September 13, 2019.

On September 13, 2018, G. Joseph Buck (Complainant) filed this complaint alleging that Frontier California, Inc., f/k/a Verizon California, Inc.'s (Frontier)

billing practice was improper and requested related relief. Frontier filed its Answer on November 2, 2018.

On December 3, 2018, a prehearing conference (PHC) was held to discuss the issues of law and fact, to determine the need for hearing, and to set the timetable to resolve the proceeding. On January 25, 2019, the assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo and Ruling. Evidentiary Hearing was held on April 10, 2019. Parties filed briefs on May 30, 2019 and reply briefs on June 13, 2019.

On August 20, 2019, the Presiding Officers' Decision (POD) was issued granting the complaint in part and dismissing the complaint in part and providing instructions that any party to this adjudicatory proceeding may file and serve an Appeal of the POD within 30 days of the date of issuance. In addition, any Commissioner may request review of the POD by filing and serving a Request for Review within 30 days of the date of issuance. Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline to March 13, 2020, is necessary to allow parties enough time to file an Appeal and to allow Commissioners enough time to file a Request for Review within 30 days of the date of issuance of the POD and to issue the final decision.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment on a decision that extends the 12-month deadline set forth in Pub. Util. Code § 1701.2(i). Under the circumstances of this case, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Liane M. Randolph is the assigned Commissioner and Patrick Doherty and Katherine Kwan MacDonald are the assigned Administrative Law Judges and presiding officers in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. On September 13, 2018, Complainant filed this complaint against Frontier.
2. Frontier filed its answer on November 2, 2018.
3. The PHC was held on December 3, 2018. On January 25, 2019, the assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo and Ruling.
4. Evidentiary Hearing was held on April 10, 2019. Parties filed briefs on May 30, 2019 and reply briefs on June 13, 2019.
5. The 12-month statutory deadline for this proceeding is September 13, 2019.
6. This proceeding cannot be completed by September 13, 2019, because the POD was filed and served on August 20, 2019, and parties need time to file an Appeal and Commissioners need time to file a Request for Review within 30 days of the date of issuance of the POD.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.2(i), the statutory deadline should be extended to March 13, 2020.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until March 13, 2020.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at Los Angeles, California.